

### REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct typographical errors and to clarify the invention. No new matter has been introduced.

The drawing sheet has been amended and replaced to include the respirator/fan filter unit 6 and detachable connection 7 which were described but not shown in Fig. 1. A replacement sheet is included in this submission. A letter to the Official Draftsman with these changes is being filed concurrently herewith.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and claims 3-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 1-7 have been amended to further clarify the subject matter the Applicants are claiming. Applicants have also added new claims 8-14. Therefore, claims 1-14 are pending and at issue.

#### 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,817,263 (Taylor). Taylor teaches a method to produce a filter assembly which provides a seal between filtration material and a sleeve to overcome problems associated with wall effects. However, Taylor does not teach or suggest the method recited in claim 1. Specifically, Taylor does not teach a method comprising the steps of providing a *connecting part* that is connectable to a respirator or fan filter unit and molding a mixture in the connecting part so as to define a molded piece connected to the connecting part. Instead, Taylor discloses molding a mixture 50 contained within a *sleeve* 20 that is contained within a mold 40. While Taylor discloses that the filtration block and sleeve are sealed together, the sleeve 20 does not correspond in function to

the connecting part recited in claim 1. Specifically, Taylor describes the cylindrical sleeve 20 as being positioned around the filter medium to retain the filter medium and direct fluid flow through it. Col. 1, lines 18-19. The connecting part, as recited in claim 1, allows the integrated molded piece and connecting part to be operatively connected to a respirator or fan filter unit. Taylor does not disclose any sort of connecting means associated with the filter and sleeve so that the integrated device may be operatively connected to a respirator or fan filter unit. The sleeve in Taylor is merely a cylindrical housing and not a connecting part as recited in claim 1.

Similarly, Taylor does not teach an apparatus as in claim 2 for carrying out the method according to claim 1. As argued *supra*, Taylor does not teach providing a connecting part nor molding a mixture in a connecting part. As Taylor does not teach or suggest the method recited in claim 1, Taylor also does not teach or suggest the apparatus for carrying out the method of claim 1, as recited in claim 2.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Taylor. In order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, "all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art." M.P.E.P. § 2143.03. It is respectfully submitted that by merely stating that a claimed aspect "is well-known in the molding art" is not sufficient to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. As the Examiner has not indicated any prior art that may be properly combined with Taylor to render the claimed invention obvious, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

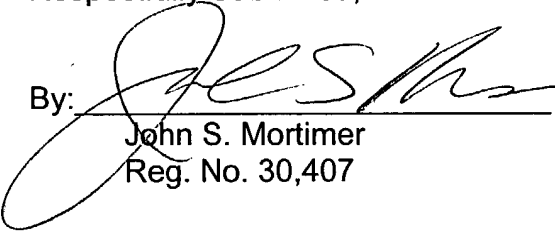
Additionally, claims 3-7 and newly added claims 8-14 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 2. As argued *supra*, claims 1 and 2 are not anticipated or suggested by Taylor. Also, the Examiner has provided no other references to render claims 1 and/or 2 either anticipated or obvious. Therefore, as claims 3-14 more specifically recite the method and structure of claims 1 and 2, dependent claims 3-14 should be in condition for allowance.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing amendments and arguments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections of claims 1-7, and the allowance of claims 1-14.

Respectfully Submitted,

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